

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments, and reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.104 and § 1.112, and in light of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

By these amendments, the article claims have been amended to particularly recite that the claimed article is a compressed article, such as shown in Fig. 3. Claim 16 specifically requires compression of the combination mesh. No new matter is added.

With regard to the Restriction requirement, under which Restriction was required between Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to a knitted mesh element, and Group II, claims 16-23, drawn to a method for making a wire mesh seal element, applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-15, for examination.

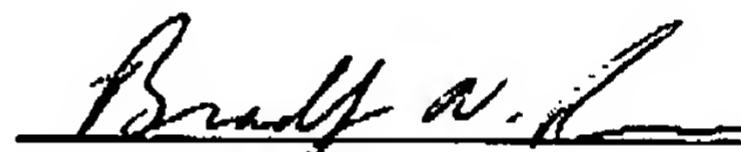
The requirement alleges that the product (Group I) could be made by a materially different process, such as by knitting one mesh over the other, rather than inserting one tube into the other. As now amended, the product claims require that the element be formed by compression. Accordingly, as now amended, the Group I claims require that the article be compressed.

The method claims of Group II merely require that one mesh be "disposed" within the other, then rolled, then compressed. Original claim 16 reads on overknitting of a tube over the pre-formed and annealed mesh tube, as

steps B. and C. would be performed simultaneously (providing and disposing) rather than serially, but both steps in the claimed method are performed whether one tube is "placed" within the other or one is overknitted on top of the other. There does not appear to be a "material" difference between the two methods, especially because both accomplish all of the steps recited in claim 16.

Accordingly, the basis in the Restriction requirement for dividing the claims no longer exists, and the Restriction requirement should now be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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10 August 2004

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DATE 10 August 2004
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